

Message Text

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40

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 705

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD PFOR EEC IR

SUBJ: MINISTER ANSARY ON IRAN/EEC RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 1483

1. MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE HUSHANG
ANSARY IN REMARKS MADE ON MARCH 17 BEFORE THE IRAN/EUROPE
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM REITERATED IRAN'S
DETERMINATION TO PURSUE ITS GOAL OF OBTAINING PREFERENTIAL
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ACCESS TO THE EEC MARKET. HE ASSERTED THAT THE EEC

COUNTRIES COULD LOSE THEIR HUGE SHARE OF THE IRANIAN MARKET, WHICH HE ESTIMATED AT 40 PERCENT OF DOLS 515 BILLION BETWEEN 1975 AND 1988. ANSARY CLAIMED IRAN HAD PLACED "SPECIAL IMPORTANCE" ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THE EEC COUNTRIES, BUT THE EEC COMMISSION HAD NOT RECIPROCATED BY CONSIDERING THE "PRESENT REALITIES" OF TRADING WITH IRAN.

2. ANSARY'S COMMENTS ON IRAN'S DESIRE FOR A PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE EEC APPEARED IN BOTH THE FARSI AND ENGLISH PRESS AND WERE CONFIRMED BY AN OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE PUT OUT BY THE GOI'S PARS NEWS AGENCY. SEMI-OFFICIAL KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL IN A MARCH 19 EDITORIAL CALLED THE EEC "EXTREMELY UNBUSINESSLIKE" IN REFUSING TO GRANT IRAN PREFERENCES AND CASTIGATED THE EEC FOR THINKING IT "CAN STILL PLAY FOR TIME WHILE THE PRESENT ONE-WAY TRADE IT CONDUCTS WITH IRAN IS IN FULL SWING." EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH ASSERTION THAT EEC WILL BE SURPRISED WHEN IT DISCOVERS "WHO IS PREPARED TO REPLACE THEM IN THE IRANIAN MARKET, AND ON WHAT TERMS."

3. COMMENT: WITH THE EEC COUNTRIES PURCHASING A LARGE SHARE OF IRAN'S OIL EXPORTS, TRADE IS HARDLY "ONE-WAY," BUT GOI OFFICIALS AT TIMES FIND IT CONVENIENT TO IGNORE THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST EXPORT WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT TRADE RELATIONS. ANSARY'S REMARKS UNDERLINE THE GOI'S INTENTION NOT TO LET UP ON ITS PURSUIT OF SOME KIND OF PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC.
HELMS

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